MARVEL

653

Dan Slott Stefano Caselli Edgar Delgado

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

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HORIZON

DAILY BUGLE

TOP STORY

INSECT INVASION!

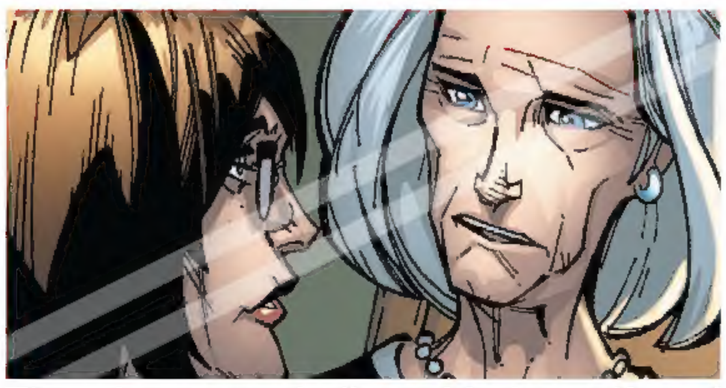
by NORAH WINTERS

The Spider-Slayer, Alistair Smythe, unleashed a horde of insect themed villains on the Vertex Shuttle launch at Andru Air Force Base. The Spider-Slayer swore vengeance against Mayor J. Jonah Jameson for the death of his father. He planned to kill everyone Jameson loves including his father, Jay Sr., and his son. The shuttle, which was being captained by Colonel John Jameson, was rigged to explode…(see full story)

SCIENCE

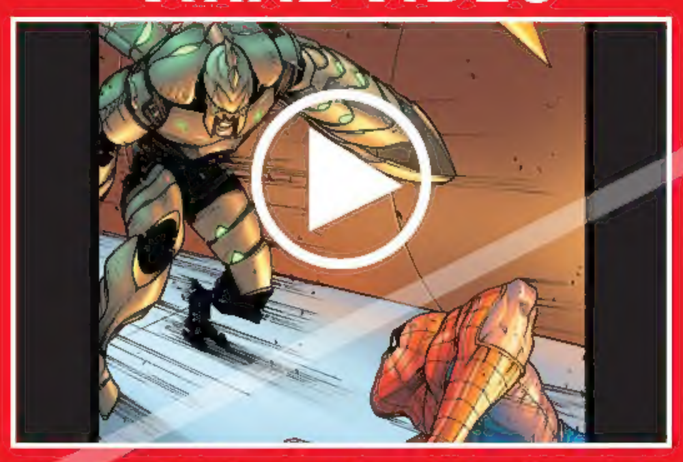
Horizon Labs founder Max Modell was on site with his newly hired genius, Peter Parker, to inspect the shuttle before launch…

SOCIETY



The Jameson ladies, Marla, wife of Mayor J. Jonah Jameson and May, wife of Jay Sr., took a spa day today to give the Jameson men a chance to spend some quality time together…

VIRAL VIDEO



Spider Scales Shuttle! Scorpion Upgraded with Scorpion-Sense!

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FRED VAN LENTE – script
STEFANO CASELLI – art
EDGAR DELGADO – colors
VC's JOE CARAMAGNA – letters

ELLIE PYLE – assistant editor
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ALAN FINE – executive producer

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REVENGE OF THE SPIDER-SLAYER

PART TWO: ALL YOU LOVE WILL DIE

BZZZWWZZZBLLZWZZZBLLL

A THOUSAND PLAGUES ON YOUR HOUSE, J. JONAH JAMESON.

HHKK!

HHKK!

HHKK!

HHKK!

Andru Air Force Base.
NEW JERSEY.

YOU'VE ALREADY MET MY ARMY OF LOCUSTS.

HHKK!

KRRNNK

HHKK!

AND I PROMISE YOU-- BLOOD AND FIRE SHALL FOLLOW--

HHKK!

--RAGE ON A BIBLICAL SCALE!

KKKSHHHH

AAAHH!

FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE TO THE SMYTHE FAMILY. MY FAMILY.

AND TO EVERY MEMBER OF MY SLAYER SWARM.

EVERYONE YOU EVER LOVED-- ANYONE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO CALL YOU "FRIEND"--

--WILL FIND MY WRATH RAINING DOWN UPON THEM.

THERE IS NO POINT IN CALLING FOR HELP. OR WARNING THE SOON-TO-BE-DEAD.

I'VE JAMMED ALL TRANSMISSIONS COMING IN OR OUT OF YOUR MOTORCADE SAVE THIS ONE.

SO DWELL ON THIS IN SOLITUDE: WHAT KIND OF OLD TESTAMENT VENGEANCE WOULD THIS BE...

...WITHOUT THE DEATH OF THE FIRSTBORN?

NO...

...JOHN?

AND WHO BETTER TO KILL "THE SON OF THE PHARAOH, WHO SITS ON THE THRONE..."

...THAN THE FIRST OF THE UNFORTUNATE LEGION YOU RUINED IN YOUR MISSPENT LIFE...

"...MAC GARGAN...

"...THE SCORPION!"

HAH! WATCH OUT, WEB-HEAD!

IT'S A LONG WAY DOWN!

KRANG

GYAHH!

HANDS AND FEET! THINK, PARKER! THIS ISN'T WALL-CRAWLING...

...THIS IS CLINGING-FOR-DEAR-LIFE! TWO POINTS OF CONTACT AT ALL TIME OR--OH NO!

TIME! I'VE GOT THREE MINUTES--FIVE MINUTES TOPS...

...TILL WE LEAVE THE TROPOSPHERE...

...AND REACH HEIGHTS IN THE STRATOSPHERE WHERE NO ONE...

...NOT EVEN GUYS WITH SUPER-POWERED LUNGS CAN BREATHE!

THEN AGAIN, THESE BOOSTER ROCKETS COULD BE RIGGED TO BLOW UP BEFORE THEN...

...SO AT LEAST I'VE GOT THAT GOING FOR ME. I MEAN, HEY...

...NO PRESSURE OR ANYTHING!

JOHN, THE BOOSTERS! THEY'RE NOT DISENGAGING! WHAT--WHAT SHOULD WE DO?!

DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING WE CAN DO. THIS HAS GOTTA BE ALL SMYTHE!

HATE TO SAY IT, DALE, BUT THIS ONE'S OUT OF OUR HANDS.

G-GOTTA GIVE SMYTHE CREDIT. STICKS SCORPION ON THE SIDE OF A FRICKIN' ROCKET...

...ON THE *OFF CHANCE* I'D HITCH A RIDE. CRAZY, RIGHT?

BUT HERE WE ARE. WELL TOUGH! 'CAUSE I'VE STILL GOT A FEW TRICKS UP MY--

THW--

--SLEEVE?

--FFFFLLLLLP

AH. G-FORCES. GREAT. JUST PEACHY.

ALL RIGHT, EINSTEIN, WHAT NOW?!

THAT THE BEST YOU GOT, BUG?!

CLOCK'S TICKING! TICK TICK *BOOM!*

YEAH?! YOU'LL BE HERE FOR THAT *TOO*, GARGAN!

NOT ME! I GOT A WAY OUT! WHAT ABOUT *YOU?!*

THIS KEEPS GETTING BETTER.

I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* I'M DOING...

...AND MAC HAS A MAGIC ESCAPE...

...HATCH? *YES!*

I KNOW HOW TO SAVE JOHN AND HIS CO-PILOT!

BUT I CAN'T DO THIS ALONE! I NEED--

--HELP!

HELLO, AVENGERS MANSION...

...SQUIRREL GIRL, EARTH'S MIGHTIEST NANNY, SPEAKING. HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

SQUIRREL GIRL? PUT WONG ON!

SORRY. WONG AND DR. STRANGE ARE OFF ON A MYSTICAL RETREAT. WHO'S THIS?

SPIDER-MAN! PUT SOMEONE ELSE-- ANYONE ELSE-- ON!

SORRY, SPIDEY. IT'S JUST ME AND DANNI CAGE.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, SWEETIE?

THE AVENGERS ARE ON THEIR WAY BACK FROM A MISSION. IF YOU COULD JUST--

--OOH, WAIT. SOMEONE MADE A BOOM-BOOM.

GAHH! I'M ON A ROCKET! OVER NEW JERSEY!

IN A MINUTE I'LL BE OUTTA OXYGEN *AND* DIE!

THAT SOUNDS TERRI--

SHUT UP! AND TRANSFER ME TO--

EASY THERE, MISTER. THERE'S *ALWAYS* TIME FOR MANNERS.

NOW LET'S TRY THAT AGAIN WITH YOUR INDOOR VOI--

SPIDEY? HELLO?

CHUNG

I AM *SO* SCREWED.

ALL MY PRECIOUS AEROTECTURE-- *DESTROYED*-- IN A MATTER OF *SECONDS*. PITY.

MAX, TELL ME. WHO *IS* THIS SMYTHE LUNATIC?

A PIONEER OF THE *BIOORGANIC CARAPACE*, JUERGEN.

SOMEONE WHO COULD HAVE REVOLUTIONIZED HAZMAT RESPONSE, DEEP SEA EXPLORATION...

...AND, APPARENTLY, AVIONICS. INTERESTING DESIGN. KEEPING WITH THE BUG-MOTIF.

TAKING OFF, EH? WELL, I GUESS HE WON'T BE BOTHERING US.

COME ALONG, MR. MUNTZ. IF SMYTHE *AND* ALL OF HIS MINIONS HAVE LEFT THE COMMAND CENTER--

THEN PERHAPS *I* CAN HACK INTO THE *REMOTE* SYSTEMS AND REGAIN CONTROL OF THE VERTEX SHUTTLE!

CAPITAL IDEA, MAX.

YES. AND PERHAPS *I* COULD BE OF SOME ASSISTANCE?

OF COURSE. AND PETER PARKER CAN CHIP IN AS WELL. THAT IS...

...IF *"WONDER BOY"* DECIDES TO SHOW HIS FACE AGAIN.

YES. WONDER WHERE HE COULD HAVE RUN OFF TO?

YOU KNOW HE MISSED THE SPIDER-MAN/ HOBGOBLIN ALTERCATION TOO...

HMM.

ASM #649 & #650. --SIMPERIN' STEVE.

WAIT! WHAT WAS I THINKING? WHO NEEDS THE AVENGERS...

...WHEN "*HULK JUNIOR*" HERE CAN HELP OUT?

HOW ARE YOU WALKING LIKE THAT?!

AT THESE G'S?! YOU BEEN WORKIN' OUT, MAC?!

THAT'S IT. THIS WAY. I DIDN'T SEE THE SHUTTLE'S DESIGNS FOR TOO LONG...

...BUT IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, THIS FUEL INTAKE HATCH HAD CERTAIN SAFETY FEATURES...

THAT'S RIGHT, LOSER!

SMYTHE MADE ME BIGGER AND STRONGER THAN EVER!

BIGGER AND STRONGER THAN *YOU!*

BUT NOT *SMARTER,* HUH?

JEEZ, GARGAN! WHATEVER YOU DO--

--DON'T THROW ME IN THAT THERE BRIAR PATCH!

MAX, LOOK AT THIS. WE HAVE A LIGHT ON THE BOOSTER'S FUEL INTAKE! IT'S BEEN TAMPERED WITH!

SAFETY PROTOCOLS ARE KICKING IN. INCLUDING THE EMERGENCY COM SYSTEM.

EXCELLENT! NOW LET'S HOPE SMYTHE DIDN'T COMPROMISE THOSE SYSTEMS AS WELL!

VERTEX SHUTTLE, THIS IS MAX MODELL AT GROUND CONTROL. COLONEL JAMESON, COME IN!

IF IT ISN'T THE BOYS FROM HORIZON LABS! GOOD TO HEAR YOU! WHAT'S THE SITUATION?

DEFINITELY BETTER! THAT IS, IF YOU CAN ACCESS YOUR--

GOTTA STOP YOU THERE, MAX. OUTSIDE OF THIS COM-CHANNEL, OUR CONTROLS ARE *DEAD.*

OH, NO!

WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S CAUSING IT.

"UNACCEPTABLE."

TEK TEK TEK

TEK TEK

Location Unknown.

HEADQUARTERS OF DOCTOR OCTOPUS & THE SINISTER SIX.

COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE IF THE VERTEX SHUTTLE FAILS TO DOCK WITH HORIZON'S ORBITAL PLATFORM...

...I SHALL NEVER COMPLETE THE OCTAHEDRAL IN TIME!

AND I REFUSE TO HAVE THE UNRESOLVED OEDIPAL ISSUES OF THAT MEWLING NARCISSIST SMYTHE...

...JEOPARDIZE MY ONE, LAST MASTERPIECE! SPIDER-SLAYER? HAH!

"HE'S NOT EVEN HALF THE PLOTTER HIS FATHER WAS.

PFFSSS--

KRAK!

"I CALCULATE AN 88.7% PROBABILITY HE WAS ADOPTED."

WAIT-- THAT *DID* IT! WE ARE BACK ONLINE!

BUT...WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHI--

FIRING THE ENGINES! WE ARE GO! GO!

GO!

"THE BOOSTERS ARE UNCOUPLING!"

WHA--?!

FWWWWW

NOOO--!!

NICE! THANKS FOR THE ASSIST, MAC!

COULDN'T'VE DONE IT WITHOUT--

BOOMERANG

GREAT.

I REALLY GOTTA FIND A NEW LINE OF WORK.

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!

IT'S NOT--

HOW DID THE ROCKETS--

SPIDER-MAN GOT NOWHERE NEAR THE OVERRIDE--

HAHA HAHAHA HA!

MY SON DID IT! I KNOW HE DID! HE'S ALWAYS BEEN THE REAL HERO!

YOU BETTER HOPE YOUR SON CAN BE TWO PLACES AT ONCE, THEN.

"BECAUSE MY SLAYER SWARM WILL BE."

"THEY ARE WATCHING YOUR LOVED ONES..."

WHAT DO YOU THINK, MAY? SHOULD WE SPRING FOR THE HOT ROCKS?

I'M LETTING YOU GUIDE ME, MARLA--

--BUT THAT SOUNDS MORE LIKE A TORTURE TECHNIQUE THAN A MASSAGE TO ME...

ROBERTSON, JOSEPH "ROBBIE."

PUBLISHER AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, DAILY BUGLE.

"...YOUR FRIENDS...

201 POUNDS

NEW RULE, PEOPLE!

WIFE: MARTHA
SONS:
PATRICK
(DECEASED)
RANDALL

BLOOD TYPE A

A $100 FINE FOR EVERY "IT'S" INSTEAD OF "ITS" THAT MAKES IT INTO THE FINAL COMPOSITE...

"...AND EVERYONE YOU HOLD DEAR."

JUST... STAY CALM, PARKER...

YOU'VE SPUN A WEB-A-CHUTE HUNDREDS OF TIMES BEFORE...

...JUST NEVER FALLING...QUITE THIS FAST...

UNNNNHH!

TOLD YOU I HAD A WAY OUT. THIS'S IT!

WITH MY NEW ARMOR, I CAN TAKE A FALL FROM THIRTY STORIES EASY.

THAT'S MAXIMUM VELOCITY! SO ANY HEIGHT'S ALL THE SAME TO ME.

GRRR!

YOU? NOT SO MUCH!

MS. MARVEL, YOU SHOULD BE APPROACHING HIS LAST KNOWN LOCATION ANY SECOND NOW--OH, NO! I DIDN'T CALCULATE WRONG--?

BELAY THAT, MANSION.

I HAVE EYEBALL ON PACKAGE--AND TANGO.

I...

...I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.

IS THAT FANCY ARMY TALK?

...

ENGAGING TARGET NOW.

THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKIN' ABOUT!

KRAAAAAAA

THAT'S WHY I'D RATHER BE LUCKY THAN GOOD...

LUCK HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.

SQUIRREL GIRL TRACKED YOUR LOCATION ON YOUR COMMUNICATOR AND TRANSMITTED ME THE COORDINATES.

SQUIRREL GIRL? SERIOUSLY?

I TAKE BACK ALL THOSE HORRIBLE THINGS I SAID ABOUT HER!

WHEN WAS THIS?

IN MY HEAD. REPEATEDLY. ABOUT NINETY SECONDS AGO.

AAAA

"GOOD THING I BROUGHT AN ARMY WITH ME."

DOWN THERE! SPOTTED THE MAYOR'S MOTORCADE.

GIVE ME A WEB-LINE! TIME FOR THAT "SLINGSHOT" MOVE WE'VE BEEN PRACTICING.

HAVE I MENTIONED HOW MUCH I "LOVE" BEING...

...PART OF THIS TEE-EE-EAM?!!

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I PULLED YOUR MUSTACHE OUT OF THE FIRE, JONAH?

AND HOW MANY *CHRISTMAS CARDS* HAVE YOU SENT OVER THE YEARS?

ZILCH! NADA! ZERO!

PRETTY SOON I'M GONNA START TAKING IT *PERSONALLY!*

WHAMMM

WHAT'S THE PLAN, LUKE?

I WAS THINKIN' SOMETHIN' ALONG THE LINES OF HITTING 'EM REPEATEDLY IN THE FACE 'TIL THEY STOPPED GETTING UP.

Luke Cage

Iron Fist

Power Woman

YOU'VE BEEN DRINKING FROM BEN GRIMM'S CUP AGAIN HAVEN'T YOU?

I LIKE IT.

IT'S A BIG CUP.

I WANT *REAL* AVENGERS! *GODS!* GUYS IN *METAL SUITS!* MEN WEARING *FLAGS!*

INSTEAD YOU BRING ME A PAIR OF *MERCENARIES* AND A FORMER *REPORTER!*

WHAT'S WRONG WITH REPORTERS? YOU USED TO RUN A NEWSPAPER!

YOU EVER *EATEN* WITH ONE?

YOU NEED TO CALL YOUR *MIGHTIER* FRIENDS AND TELL THEM TO PROTECT THE DAILY BUGLE--

--AND MY GOD, MY WIFE, *MARLA!* SMYTHE'S THREATENED TO DESTROY *EVERYONE I* CARE ABOUT!

MARLA? TODAY--

--SHE WAS GOING TO TAKE *AUNT MAY* ON A SPA DATE!

FLATTOP MAY BE A *PUNK*, BUT HE'S GOT A *POINT*.

HEY!

IF THE BUGS ARE FANNING OUT ACROSS THE CITY, WE GOT TO TOO.

BUT YOU'RE--

--TAKIN' CARE OF BUSINESS *HERE*. YOU *GO*.

YOU'RE A *BORN LEADER*, MR. CAGE!

DON'T GO SPREADING IT *AROUND*. GOT A *REPUTATION* TO MAINTAIN.

WHAT'S THE PLAN, PETER?

DIVIDE AND CONQUER, MOCKINGBIRD!

THE FLIERS-- MS. MARVEL AND JEWEL--GO TO THE BUGLE--

HEY! YOUR AUNT MAY EVER TELL YAH IT AIN'T POLITE TO POINT?

--WHILE *WE* THROW THIS THING INTO OVERDRIVE--

"--AND HEAD TO THAT DAY SPA WHERE MAY AND MRS. JAMESON ARE AT!"

SIGH

TWO WORDS, MAY:

HOT ROCKS, MARLA.

HOT ROCKS...

LET'S JUST KEEP SAYING "*HOT ROCKS*" FOR THE REST OF THE DAY.

HOT ROCKS.

K-K-K

KAHOOOOOOM

ALL JAMESONS GOTTA DIE!

WHEN CITY HALL SHUT DOWN MY STREAM O' KICKBACKS, I LOST MY CONTRACTING BUSINESS!

I LOST MY WIFE!

NOW THE MAYOR'S GONNA LOSE *HIS!*

CODE BLUE!

CODE BLUE!

I-I WAS *GOING* TO SAY I HAD NEVER BEEN SO *RELAXED*...

IT'S GONNA BE ALL RIGHT, MAY...

I... *THINK*...NYPD'S MANDROID DIVISON CAN HANDLE THEM...

PEOPLE! WHY ARE HALF OUR ADS NOT PLACED THIRTY MINUTES TO PRESS?

ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME?!

SO... NORAH...

Offices of the New Daily Bugle.

...YOU FINALLY *FREE* TONIGHT?

BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE SEEN MY *GIRLFRIEND* I'VE STARTED LOOKING FOR YOU ON THE SIDE OF *MILK CARTONS*...

I KNOW, RANDY, AND I'M *REALLY* SORRY.

BUT PHIL'S GOT ANOTHER LEAD ON THE *HOBGOBLIN* WE HAVE TO RUN DOWN TONIGHT. THIS IS THE TOP #1 STORY I'M WORKING ON!

SORRY, BRAH, YET *ANOTHER* TEDIOUS STAKEOUT...

...ALL NIGHT... *ALONE*...WITH YOUR *GIRLFRIEND*...

...WITH NOTHING TO DO BUT TO GET TO *KNOW* EACH OTHER *BETTER*...

WHERE ARE YOU GETTING THESE "LEADS" FROM, ANYWAY?

HEY! HIGH-TECH TERRORISTS ATTACKING A DAY SPA IN SOHO! WHO CAN HEAD DOWN THERE NOW?

KAWHOOOOOM

NO NEED.

WE'VE COME TO YOU.

AN ATTACK BY COSTUMED LUNATICS.

NOW THIS PLACE *OFFICIALLY* FEELS LIKE THE DAILY BUGLE...

REMEMBER ME, ROBBIE?

NO, I GUESS YOU *WOULDN'T*, LIKE THIS...

IF YOU HAVE A *COMPLAINT*, I CAN GIVE YOU OUR "*LETTERS TO THE EDITOR*" E-MAIL ADDRESS.

MAKE SURE YOU MARK IT "OK TO PRINT."

YOU CAN'T HAVE FORGOTTEN *SHAWNA TYRON* SO SOON.

SHAWNA? YOU--WHAT *HAPPENED* TO YOU?

AFTER YOU AND *JAMESON* HOUNDED ME OFF THE BUGLE? GOT MY *PULITZER* REVOKED?

LET'S JUST SAY I'VE BEEN DOING A HELLUVA LOT *BETTER* SINCE I MET *ALISTAIR SMYTHE.*

DAD!

DON'T DO IT, ROBERTSON. DON'T BE A HERO.

TRUST ME...

...THERE'S JUST NO *PROFIT* IN IT.

YOU *FABRICATED* YOUR ENTIRE GANG EXPOSE, SHAWNA--SENT INNOCENT MEN TO PRISON UNTIL JONAH *FIRED* YOU FOR A GOOD--

SANCTIMONIOUS TO THE *END?* SHOCKING.

KILL HIM!

ZAWOKKK

WHA--!

ATTENTION, *FREAKS*: THIS BUILDING'S UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE *AVENGERS*.

CARE TO *DISPUTE* THAT?

HM. NOT A FAN OF THE NEW BUGLE OFFICES.

I *KNOW*. LOOKED BETTER WHEN WE WORKED HERE.

Soho.

FORTUNATELY, AUNT MAY INSISTS ON TEXTING ME HER *EXACT WHEREABOUTS* AT ALL TIMES.

THAT'S THE PLACE, UP THERE!

day spa

WHAT? THIS WHERE YAH GET YER LITTLE WEBBED TOES *PED-I-CURED?*

ENOUGH WITH THE JOKES, BEN. YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO...

...SPIDER-MAN'S GOT A *PERSONAL* STAKE IN THIS.

ALL RIGHT, ALREADY...

...IT'S *EXTERMINATIN'* TIME!

MRS. PARKE-- *UH*, MRS. *JAMESON!* CAN YOU HEAR ME?!

DID HE JUST SAY *MY* NAME FIRST...?

WE'RE *HERE*, SPIDER-MAN! WE'RE *SAFE!*

ANYONE... RUNNING INTO THE SAME PROBLEM I'M HAVING?

YEAH, I'M SWINGING MY MITTS AS HARD AS I *CAN* BUT I AIN'T *CONNECTIN'*!

IT'S SERIOUSLY INTERFERIN' WITH MY *CLOBBERIN'*!

THESE THINGS SEEM TO KNOW WHERE I'M STRIKING BEFORE *I* DO--

WE NEED A NEW BATTLE PLAN, MARVEL!

The Daily Bugle.

LUKE! THESE AREN'T *NORMAL* DODGES.

THEY'RE EXHIBITING SOME KIND OF PRETERNATURAL COMBAT SENSE...

...JUST LIKE... *SPIDER-MAN!*

The Mayor's Motorcade

I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE WE *CAN* DO, BUT OUR CURRENT PLAN OF ATTACK *ISN'T WORKING!*

ALL WE'RE DOING IS TIRING OURSELVES OUT!

SPIDER-MAN HAS THE POWERS AND INSTINCTS OF A SPIDER! SO I WILL SEND HIM A MESSAGE THAT ONLY HIS SPIDER SENSES WILL BE ABLE TO PICK UP!

IN S... HAS ... OF A ... WAS ... ONE ... CREA... WAVE...

SHE'S ***RIGHT.*** SMYTHE HAS FIGURED OUT SOME WAY TO REPLICATE MY ***SPIDER-SENSE*** IN HIS CYBORG-BUG-MEN!

ALLING SPIDER-MAN! CALLING SPIDER-MAN! I UST CONTACT YOU AT ONCE!

VILLAINS LIKE CHAMELEON AND DOC DOOM HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LOCK ONTO ITS "*FREQUENCY*" IN THE PAST...

...WONDER IF I CAN PULL A ***SIMILAR*** TRICK?

GUYS! I THINK I CAN COUNTERACT THEIR SIXTH SENSE, BUT I NEED TO COLLECT SOMETHING FROM, UH--

--MY "*SPIDER-CAVE!*"

CAN YOU DEAL IF I GO GRAB IT?

I'M SERIOUS HERE, BEN. CAN YOU KEEP HER SAFE?!

KID, I'M BENJAMIN J. GRIMM, THE EVER-LOVIN' BLUE-EYED THING...

...AND I PROMISE YAH, ON MY AUNT PETUNIA'S LIFE--

--AS LONG AS I'M HERE, THESE GALS ARE SAFE AS HOUSES!

GET YER THINGAMAJIG!

HATE LEAVING AUNT MAY LIKE THIS--

--BUT UNLESS I WHIP UP A *SPIDER-SENSE JAMMER* AT HORIZON, NONE OF US ARE GONNA STAND A CHANCE AGAINST SMYTHE'S ARMY!

I HAVE TEN MINUTES TO SLIP IN...

...PULL A QUICK "*MACGYVER*" BUILD...

...AND SLIP *OUT* WITH NO ONE THE *WISER*...

MR. PARKER.

MAX!

I BELIEVE IT'S HIGH PAST TIME THE TWO OF US HAD A LITTLE TALK...

...ABOUT *YOU* AND *SPIDER-MAN.*

YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT, SPIDERPHILES! THIS ONE'S To Be Continued...

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL

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We welcome everyone back for another Wacker-filled page of Spider-centric mail and news.

ITEM! With all the hubbub around the recent Marvel move and a complete recalibration of Marvel's production schedule, we ended up without a letter column last issue and I didn't get a chance to introduce you to your next new Spidey artist....Italy's own Stefano Caselli.

Avengers fans may recognize Stefano's names not only from AVENGERS: THE INITIATIVE where he had a nice long run with Dan Slott, but also recently of SECRET WARRIORS. Those books were just training though for Stefano who's now ready to bring to your refined Spidey-tastes the work of his career.

Rotating between Stefano, Humberto Ramos and Marcos Martin (who you'll meet next month) is setting many spoiled Spidey fan's hearts all-a-twitter, so just calm down, have a seat and don't be so emotional. Sheesh!

ITEM! ITEM! In addition, we want to lay out a huge bit of thanks to "Deadly" Fred(ly) Van Lente. The former Web-Head came back for a return visit not only to introduce you to the new Power Man in our backup series, but to also help Dan and myself get through our schedule crunch. It's always great to have Fred around and I know we'll see him again soon.

ITEM! ITEM! ITEM! Finally, this very week we say goodbye to our friend (and writer of the recent hit *One Moment In Time*), Joe Quesada who has stepped down as editor in chief to focus on his other responsibilities as Marvel's Chief Creative Officer. As you can see, it's in Joe's contract that he always has the word "chief" in his title so it was either this or be named Marvel's official Fire Chief. Joe chose the job that will have him on TV much more. Go figure. Glory hog.

Anyway, my guess is they'll name me as new editor-in-chief given the massive amount of high quality work I've gifted to the unadorned, unrelenting masses over these many, moonlit months. In fact, I'm going to just start charging a bunch of expensive stuff to my charge cards assuming that they'll give me the job. I might even put a bid on a new home tonight...HEY! A '69 Corvette. I'll take it. Also I may as well stop at the comic store tonight and pick up a mint condition copy of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #1 since I'm going to be named editor in chief. Oh here's a drawer filled with my life savings. I'll just hand it all off to Pyle since I'll be getting all new money soon in my new high-class job as Editor in Chief.

Yep, it's pretty good to me. What could go wrong.

Welp, onto you...

Hello Spider-people,

I've been an avid fan and reader of Spidey comics since the early '90s, and this is the FIRST time I've ever felt compelled enough to have written a letter to you – I decided today that my voice must be heard.

I just finished reading ASM #648, and for the first time in a long while, I put the comic down thinking YES, YES, YES!!! It was SO good. Upon finishing, I immediately read it again. I laughed. I awed. I gawked, stared, ogled, and drooled.

The writing from Dan Slott was solid, captivating, and oftentimes very funny (the Snooki reference, "Kevin" the piece of cheese). I also LOVED that Peter Parker's intelligence comes into play in this issue, as I've always viewed Spider-Man as a very cerebral character. It is easy to forget that Peter is a brilliant guy, and he is finally getting the recognition and job he deserves at Horizon Labs. I hope he stays there for a long time.

On to Humberto Ramos' art: this man was born to draw Spider-Man. I've been a fan of his ever since his *Spectacular Spider-Man* run, and I've been eagerly awaiting a (hopefully long) run of ASM from him. I feel that his style of art is a perfect fit for Spidey's light-hearted manner; yet he can also bring out a deeper, darker side in his characters.

Please keep this team around; they are a killer combination. I am enthralled with the "Big Time" storyline thus far, and will continue to look for great things.

Matt Ronck
College Station, TX

Dear Steve,

I can't believe the original Hobgoblin's dead! Spider-Man's arch-nemesis in the 1980s killed by... that Phil Urich? Mr. Nice Guy? Now this is weird!

I'm gonna miss Roderick Kinsgsley. His battles against Spider-Man (written by Roger Stern and Tom DeFalco) were true classics. Anyway let's see what Dan Slott has in store for this new, improved Hobgoblin... who knows, it could be fun.

Oh, Peter at Horizon reminds to me the days when he was hired at TriCorp Research Foundation. Will our Mr. Parker be able to keep his dream job, this time?

Francesco Vanagolli
Portoferraio, Italy

Thanks for giving us a shot, Francesco. Dan's plans are far reaching and we'll see a hint of some of what's to come this spring in the FREE COMIC BOOK DAY issue of *Amazing Spider-Man*. It'll be an all new story by Slott and Humberto Ramos and should get all of you Spidey fans talking. It's available starting the beginning of May...right after Marvel's Thor movie opens nationwide.

(I know readers like yourself who live overseas may have trouble getting the issue, so we'll work with the digital comics crew to make it available to you online as soon as possible).

Now for me, of course, "free" comics don't mean much since I'm getting this editor in chief job and don't need to worry about money like a lowly assistant or even "senior" editor might.

Dear Dan and Steve:

After writing to you regarding the "fart joke" in ASM #648, I continued to shake my head in disbelief for several days. "That joke made it into Amazing Spider-Man?" Okay, whatever... Another example of the coarsening of the times. It's done. Move on.

By the time I received ASM 649, I had forgotten about it. That is, until I saw the Hobgoblin get beheaded. And then Norah's sex joke, "And that's the only thing Spidey'll rub off on you?" And then Norah's other sex joke, "It's way more about his washboard abs and his enormous..." And then Peter tells Aunt May he has "mountains of porn" in his closet to keep her from going in there.

What happened to the editorial standards for Amazing Spider-Man?

I mentioned in my last email how I was disappointed in Dan's fart joke because I thought it was beneath his talents. I had no idea he was just getting started with the crass humor. I don't mind double entendres and implied jokes. But the jokes you have attempted aren't funny or witty or clever. They most definitely don't belong in a comic book that has the prestige and legacy that Amazing Spider-Man has.

Dan, you are a grown man. You are a professional writer. Comics are a legitimate medium and you are penning one of the all-time greats. Kids read this book. Girls and ladies read this book. Please stop writing like it's solely for you and your drinking buddies.

And you botched another element of Peter Parker's personality and true character. He would never be ashamed at being escorted to work or anywhere else by Aunt May. The real Peter would have held her around the shoulder and given her a tour of that place. He loves her like a mother, and he's not too cool to want her to be proud of him in front of others.

From your previous work, it seemed like you knew these characters better and respected them more. Please find that voice again.

Mike Barr
San Pedro, CA

I absolutely respect where you're coming from, Mike, though I don't completely agree. As you suggest, modern sensibilities have changed and it's a constant battle to not freeze our comics in amber and –within reason—try to reflect the world outside our windows. I don't necessarily celebrate what you may see as a coarsening of society, but I don't want our creators to ignore it either. In general, we do try and keep the content of the book along the lines of what you would find on TV at 8:00 PM (7:00 central). And I think even the jokes you bring up fall into that criteria.

We will keep your points in mind in the future though. Thanks for writing.

Dear Spider-Mail,

I should get a No-Prize for this. It concerns the pop science quiz in #648, in order to get Peter Parker a scientific research team job offer. Max is quoted as saying, "well, that's a third of the think tank. That's all we need." Peter responds, "A third? You said their were seven of them." Now Max mentions one is missing. Well, neither Peter nor Max...nor the rest of the think tank present... can do simple math. Three out of six is one half. If it was one third, there would have to be nine people. This makes think tank scientists... who admired Peter's great calculus...look like blooming idiots – not to mention Peter, for not catching it.

Randy Kemp
Carol Stream, Illinois

Dan Slott responds:

Max isn't part of the Lucky 7. At that time in the story, the Think Tank consisted of Sajani, Grady, Bella, Uatu, "6", and Juergen. So two members equaled one-third. Steve, while I have you, have you heard about Axel's promo--

Sorry to have to cut you off Dan, but I want to get back to Randy's great catch. As the soon-to-be named Editor in Chief of Marvel Comics, I will endeavor to make sure our editors and writers each take several semesters in basic math. I probably won't be available for the classes since I'll be spending my free time hanging out with Jeph Loeb and Brian Bendis at the private Marvel pool upstairs. In fact, I'll make the math class the second order of business when I take over.

First order of business of course will be getting rid of Executive Editor (and former Spidey editor) Axel Alonso, whose guff I've put up with for far too long. I'm sick of that guy! I always promised myself that when I could get him removed I would! Sure the X-Books and the Marvel Knights line have been great under him...BUT AT WHAT COST! He's gone. I can't wait.

This is going to go perfectly!

Viva ME!

Simperin' Steve

1/5/11..wait, hey Joe. What's up? Time for me to...huh? You did? Axel? Alonso? Uh-oh...

Ellie, do we have time to pull the letter column? You will? Great, thanks. If that sees print, It's going to be bad news for me...and you'd hate that, right? Anyway, I trust you'll take care of it.

Send e-mail to
SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM
(please mark as OKAY TO PRINT)

Federal Hall.
Wall Street, NYC.

QUIET!
QUIET, EVERYONE...

...ALLOW MY MEN AND I TO GO ABOUT OUR WORK AND *THE LOOTER* WILL LET YOU LEAVE WITH YOUR LIVES...WITH A *GRIPPING* VACATION STORY TO BOOT.

WAS SAGT DER? IST DAS EIN TEIL DER TOUR?

MAUL HALTEN!

AND IF YOU'RE *REALLY* GOOD...

...I MIGHT EVEN SHOW YOU THE *TRUE* SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS SITE...

...NOT THAT RANGER BOB HERE WOULD LIKE THAT TOO MUCH...

...WOULD YOU, RANGER BOB?

YOU MESSED WITH THE WRONG *FEDERAL AGENCY*, FREAK!

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WON'T *STAND* FOR THIS!!

IS THAT SO?

WHO'S GOING TO *STOP* ME?

SASHHSSSSHHH

WHOA! HOW'D YOU KNOW THE BUM WAS GONNA BE *HERE*, SPIDEY?!

I DIDN'T *KNOW*, BUT IT WAS A REASONABLE INFERENCE:

SINCE THE KEY TO NEW YORK CITY HAS NO VALUE AS A PRECIOUS OBJECT IN ITSELF, THE LOOTER SWIPED IT BECAUSE IT ACTUALLY *UNLOCKS* SOMETHING.

AND SINCE IT DATES BACK TO *1702*, DOESN'T HURT TO START LOOKING *HERE*, WHERE CITY HALL *USED* TO BE... ACCORDING TO WIKIPEDIA.

THAT'S *AMAZING!* YOU ACTUALLY *BELIEVED* SOMETHING YOU READ ON *WIKIPEDIA?*

HEY, IF YOU ONLY LOOK UP STUFF NOBODY ELSE CARES ABOUT, IT'S USUALLY PRETTY ACCURATE...

LOCK AND/OR KEY PART TWO

WRITTEN BY FRED VAN LENTE
PENCILS BY REILLY BROWN
INKS BY VICTOR OLAZABA
COLORS BY ANDRES MOSSA
LETTERS BY VC'S CARAMAGNA
ELLIE PYLE ASSISTANT EDITOR
STEPHEN WACKER SENIOR EDITOR

ALL RIGHT, POWER MAN, YOU TAKE CARE OF THESE GOONS AND I'LL GO AFTER--

ALL RIGHT, SPIDER-MAN, YOU TAKE CARE OF THESE GOONS AND I'LL GO AFTER LOOTER!

THOOOOOOM

WHAT? *NO!* IT DOESN'T WORK LIKE THAT!

I TAKE THE MAIN VILLAIN AND *YOU* TAKE THE GOONS!

I HAVE SENIORITY!!

WELCOME TO PAINVILLE.

POPULATION: YOU.

HRM.

YOU LOOKED MORE IMPRESSIVE ON YOUR WEB-SITE.

ZWOT

INTERESTING. YOUR MOLECULAR DENSITY APPEARS TO HAVE AS MUCH *BULK MODULUS* AS MY OWN TISSUE, ENHANCED BY *METEOR GAS*...

WUBOOOM

YOUR MAMA SUCKS METEORS!

UNNNFF!

WHOOSH

GOOD COMEBACK.

I THINK WE CAN BOTH AGREE YOU *HAD* YOUR CHANCE, RIGHT?

YOU NEVER SAID HE HAD *SPACE JUNKIE* STRENGTH!!

SKRAAAAAANNCH

IN COLONIAL DAYS, THIS WAS NEW YORK'S CITY HALL!

WASHINGTON MADE IT THE FIRST *CAPITOL* OF THE U.S.! HE DELIVERED HIS FIRST INAUGURAL ADDRESS FROM THE GALLERY ABOVE!

LINCOLN MADE IT THE MAIN STOREHOUSE FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S CASH RESERVES!

BUT THOSE WERE ALL JUST *SMOKESCREENS* FOR THE BUILDING'S *TRUE* PURPOSE!

JUST AS TRADITION DICTATES THE *KEY TO THE CITY OF NEW YORK* HAS BEEN MADE IN *THIS* SHAPE FOR THREE HUNDRED YEARS...

SKKR-KKK

...FOR REASONS *LOST* TO *SECRET HISTORY*...

...UNTIL I UNCOVERED THEM!

WHA...?

RRRRMMMMMBBBBBBBBB

AW, NOW THAT'S *MESSED UP* RIGHT THERE.

KRIK

KRUNK

KRIK

KRUNK

KRIK

FORGET ABOUT MY *DAZZLE GUN*, WALL-CRAWLER?

DAAHHH! I TRIED TO!

BUT JOHN WILKES BOOTH--*HE* WAS A *33RD DEGREE FREEMASON!*

LINCOLN WAS *KNOCKED OFF* WHEN HE ASKED TOO MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT WAS BURIED HERE...

...A *FALLEN STAR* COLLECTED BY 33RD DEGREE MASON *BENJAMIN FRANKLIN* AND USED FOR *CENTURIES* IN THEIR SCOTTISH RITE!

THE MAYOR OF NEW YORK WHEN THE CITY CLAIMED THIS SITE, *DAVID PROVOST?* HE WAS A 33RD DEGREE FREEMASON!

GEORGE WASHINGTON? *HE* WAS A 33RD DEGREE FREEMASON!

ABRAHAM LINCOLN? *NOT* A FREEMASON!

I SHALL USE THE INTERSTELLAR *VAPORS* CONTAINED WITHIN THIS FALLEN STAR TO INCREASE MY POWER A *THOUSANDFOLD*--

KKKKKKKKKK

YYAAAGGGHHH!!

ᒪᓕᓂᐊᓪᓚᖅ ᓴᓇᔨᓪᓚᖅ ᐊᓂᐊᓪᓚᖅ ᐅᓇᓱᐊᓪᓚᖅ

GHOOOOM

ᓴᓇᔨᓪᓚᖅ

WHY CAN'T CONSPIRACY THEORIES EVER TELL US ANYTHING *USEFUL?*

HEY-- KEEP YOUR TENTACLES OUT OF THERE--

AAAH! I'M BEING FELT UP BY A PERVERT FROM BEYOND SPACE AND TIME!!

REMEMBER, KIDS:

FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS SNIFF INTERGALACTIC WHIPPETS.

ON YOUR FEET, LOOTER! WE'RE GONNA STUFF YOU BACK IN *ATLAS SHRUGGED* WHERE YOU BELONG, YOU OBSCURE AYN RAND REFERENCE YOU.

WHAT?

HUH?

THINK I'M GONNA SHUT DOWN MY "*HERO FOR HIRE*" WEBSITE FOR ***GOOD***, CONCENTRATE ON MY PARTNERSHIP WITH ***FIST***...

...LAST COUPLE O' PEOPLE WHO E-MAILED ME FROM THERE TURNED OUT TO BE *VILLAINS* ANYWAY...

YOU AND I MAKE A GREAT PAIR, THOUGH! MAYBE I SHOULD JOIN *TEAM SPIDEY* TOO--

NO, NO! I WOULDN'T ***DREAM*** OF TAKING IRON FIST'S PARTNER AWAY FROM HIM. YOU STICK WITH HIM.

PLEASE.

I BEG OF YOU.

Power Man & Iron Fist #1 & 2 On Sale Next Month! Buy Them Or You'll Make Spider-Man Cry!